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# THE BIBLICAL WORLD

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## EDITORIAL LETTER.

### TO THE READERS :

The years as they pass bring periods of special sorrow when death takes from among us those who have become an essential part of our intellectual and spiritual environment. At least they seem essential, until by the providence of God they pass to the higher stage of human existence. With sadness and a deep sense of loss, but with precious memories, we turn and attach ourselves to others. The present has brought to us an exceptional group of deaths: Professor Green, of Princeton; Rabbi Isaac Wise, of Cincinnati; Principal T. C. Edwards, of Wales; and Professor J. H. Barbour, of Middletown, Conn. Professor Bruce's death also is still so recent that his name may be linked with theirs in the church's roll of honor. The magnificent work which these great men have performed for the present century we mark with gratitude.

Of the long and exceptionally useful career of Professor William Henry Green we count it a privilege to speak somewhat at length. The memorial article which is given the first place in this issue is an account of Dr. Green's work which Professor John D. Davis, his colleague at Princeton, has kindly prepared at our request for the BIBLICAL WORLD. Unmeasured honor is to be given Dr. Green for his service to biblical scholarship—not only to biblical scholarship, but to the entire cause of pure and true religion. Our frontispiece picture of Dr. Green is from a recent photograph which his family considers to present the best likeness of him in these late years. May this tribute to America's

great scholar awaken for him those thoughts and affections which a life of unusual beauty and service deserves.

Some account of the important work of Rabbi Wise among the Jews of America was given in the BIBLICAL WORLD last month. Earnest efforts, which must prove successful, are being made to enlarge the foundation and sphere of the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, of which he was the head, with the intent of making a great Jewish university as a monument to President Wise's memory.

The death of Principal T. C. Edwards, of the Calvinistic Methodist College at Bala, Wales, occurred on March 22. A brief reference to his life and work will be found elsewhere in this issue. The service which Principal Edwards rendered to New Testament scholarship, particularly in his commentaries upon several of the New Testament books, is known and appreciated by hosts of Bible students in this country as well as in Great Britain.

These three scholars had lived long and had reached an age when death comes not as a surprise, however great the bereavement. But we could not have anticipated, or have been in any way prepared for, the death on April 29 of Professor John H. Barbour, D.D., who occupied the New Testament chair at Berkeley Divinity School, Middletown, Conn. His passing came as a shock of affliction to all who knew him and his work. Dr. Barbour was forty-six years of age, having been born at Torrington, Conn., in 1854. He was a graduate of Trinity College, Hartford, in 1873. Three years later he was ordained as deacon, and in 1878 was made priest in the Episcopal church. Until 1889 he was in charge of Grace Chapel, Hartford, acting also after 1882 as librarian of Trinity College. In 1889 he was appointed to the chair of New Testament literature and interpretation at Berkeley Divinity School. It was while serving with great ability and favor in this position that his death occurred. Dr. Barbour had published one small but scholarly book, entitled *The Beginnings of the Historic Episcopate*. The BIBLICAL WORLD has given to its readers not a few useful articles and thoughtful reviews from his pen, one of the latest of which will be found in

this number, prepared some weeks before his death. Dr. Barbour had long been in delicate health, and a severe attack of the grippe which he had contracted proved fatal. He was a well-qualified, painstaking, and accurate scholar, a man of sound judgment and of kindly spirit, to whom all became attached who passed under his instruction or otherwise knew him.

American scholarship cannot easily recover from the loss which the last few months have brought to it. Still another loss, of a different kind, it is fitting to mention in this connection. On April 21 Mrs. Caroline E. Haskell, of Michigan City, Ind., died at the age of seventy-eight years. Mrs. Haskell also, though in a different way, made a noteworthy contribution to the cause of biblical learning and true religion. Her munificent gifts in support of religious instruction have already become widely known. The Haskell Oriental Museum at the University of Chicago is the most conspicuous of a large number of gifts, but the establishment of the "Haskell Lectures on Comparative Religion" at the same university, and the "Lectureship on the Relation of Christianity to the other Faiths of the World," according to the provisions of which the lectures have been and will continue to be delivered in various parts of the world, are no less useful contributions to the great cause to which she was devoted. Her interest in this kind of work began at the time of the Parliament of Religions in 1893. The spirit of cordial sympathy which she showed for all efforts on behalf of religion, and her profound conviction of the value of higher education, ennobled and beautified all her benefactions.

May we not enter with full appreciation and gratitude into the lives of Christian service which these persons have lived, and find in them an inspiration to go forward with full trust and untiring zeal to make our own lives useful for the kingdom of God which they so nobly and so faithfully served?

THE EDITORS.